

## Religious Education – Our Intent (for Parents)

At St Edward's Catholic Primary School, Religious Education is at the heart of everything we do. As a Catholic school, we believe Religious Education helps children grow in faith, develop strong values and learn how to live out Gospel values in their everyday lives.

Our aim is to support every child to **know God, understand the Catholic faith and grow as confident, compassionate individuals**, following the example of Jesus. Through Religious Education, children are encouraged to ask questions, reflect, pray and develop a deeper understanding of how faith shapes choices, relationships and actions.

We follow the **Religious Education Directory (RED)**, *To Know You More Clearly*, which ensures that learning is carefully planned and builds progressively from Reception through to Year 6. This provides a clear structure for what children learn and ensures knowledge and understanding deepen over time.

### How we plan Religious Education in mixed-age classes

At St Edward's, some of our classes are **mixed-age**, meaning children from different year groups learn together. We plan Religious Education carefully to ensure **all children are supported and challenged appropriately**, regardless of age.

Each class follows a **specific year-group focus** for Religious Education, which allows teaching to be clear, consistent and well sequenced. Teachers adapt lessons so that:

- Younger children are supported with appropriate scaffolding and vocabulary
- Older children are challenged to deepen their understanding through discussion, reflection and application of learning

Teachers regularly **revisit prior learning** to ensure children remember what they have previously been taught. Where children have followed a different programme in earlier years, additional checks and recap activities are used to ensure understanding is secure and that learning builds smoothly from one year to the next.

This approach ensures that:

- No learning is missed
- Knowledge is reinforced and built upon
- Children develop confidence and understanding at their own pace

### How Religious Education is taught

Religious Education is taught in engaging and meaningful ways, including storytelling, discussion, art, drama, music, prayer and reflection. Key religious vocabulary is displayed on classroom working walls and revisited every lesson to help children use important words confidently and accurately.

We encourage children to put their learning into action through kindness, service and care for others.

Initiatives such as **Little Apostles, Mini Vinnies, Catholic Social Teaching and charitable work** help children live out their faith in meaningful ways.

## **Working together with families**

We value strong partnerships with families and our parish. Through shared prayer, worship and sacramental preparation, we work together to support children on their faith journey. Initiatives such as the **Prayer Bear** also help to encourage prayer and reflection at home.

At St Edward's, Religious Education is about more than learning facts; it is about helping children grow in faith, love and understanding as they journey together in God's love.